

February 23, 2023

TO: The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries

House Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

TO: The Honorable Elise Stefanik

Chair of the House Republican Conference
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

CC: Reps. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY), Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY), Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), Daniel Goldman (D-NY), Brian Higgins (D-NY), Nick LaLota (R-NY), Nicholas Langworthy (R-NY), Michael Lawler (R-NY), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Grace Meng (D-NY), Marcus Molinaro (R-NY), Joseph Morelle (D-NY), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Patrick Ryan (D-NY), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), Paul Tonko (D-NY), Ritchie Torres (D-NY), Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), and Brandon Williams (R-NY)

Re: New York Representatives Must Commit to Expel George Santos From Congress

Honorable members of New York's congressional delegation,

On January 9, 2023, the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center [filed a complaint](#) with the Federal Election Commission accusing Representative George Santos (NY-3) of using campaign funds for personal expenses and concealing the true sources of a \$705,000 loan he initially claimed to have made to his campaign. What followed was a deluge of allegations against the freshman congressman, including claims that he accepted contributions above the legal limits and reported suspicious expenses on his campaign filings.

- On January 9, it was [revealed that a Santos fundraiser impersonated](#) Kevin McCarthy's chief of staff to solicit campaign donations.
- On January 13, Accountable.US [filed an FEC complaint](#) alleging that Santos misused campaign funds for personal expenses, including rent, and accepted contributions over \$2,900, the legal limit, from 36 individual donors.
- On January 24, Santos [admitted in a new FEC filing](#) that \$500,000 of the more than \$700,000 he'd reported as a personal loan was, in fact, not. He amended another report to indicate that a [separate \\$125,000 loan was also not a personal loan](#). Santos did not disclose the source of the money.
- On January 25, [POLITICO](#) found that Santos reported 40 disbursements between \$199 and \$200, including several of exactly \$199.99, noting that "his campaign accounted for roughly half of all expenses by all campaigns that cost exactly \$199.99 — a statistical improbability." The FEC requires receipts for disbursements of \$200 and over.
- On January 26, the FEC [contacted the Santos campaign](#) over concerns it failed to file "true, correct or complete treasurer information" after a person who was listed as Santos' new campaign treasurer denied having taken the role.
- On January 27, [Mother Jones](#) identified over a dozen donations to Santos' 2020 run for Congress for which the name and address of the donor could not be verified. Later, the outlet [revealed](#) that a relative of Santos claimed that they did not make two donations of \$2,900 as claimed in Santos' campaign filings.

- On February 10, the FEC [sent a letter](#) to Santos asking that he clarify if he's running for reelection in 2024, and if not, to "disavow" his campaign fundraising after the 2022 midterm election.

As a result, Rep. Santos faces a series of investigations over his possible campaign finance violations by the Department of Justice, the Federal Election Commission, and New York State.

In considering the seriousness of these allegations, it is important to remember why campaign finance laws exist. Campaign contribution limits, restrictions on personal spending, and transparency requirements are crucial to preventing and punishing corruption, ensuring fair policy outcomes, and letting voters know who is financially supporting a candidate so that they can make informed decisions at the polls. Sadly, it appears that George Santos's constituents had neither accurate information about his background nor how his campaign was financed.

We applaud those members of New York's delegation—on both sides of the aisle—who have called on Santos to resign over his lies, obfuscations, and disgraceful actions. Unfortunately, because Rep. Santos continues to operate with a brazen contempt for his constituents, colleagues, and the institution to which he was elected, our leaders must now take a more forceful stance.

That's why the undersigned New York-based organizations strongly urge *all* members of New York's congressional delegation to commit to voting to expel Rep. Santos from Congress. In particular, it is crucial that the highest-ranking New Yorker in the House majority join her colleagues in making this commitment. As New York State in recent years has made strides toward becoming a national leader on campaign finance issues, voters expect our federal delegation to hold their colleagues to a higher standard of transparency and accountability.

Federal prosecutors and regulators are already doing their job. It's time for every member of New York's congressional delegation to make it clear that they are prepared to hold Representative Santos accountable. Failing to do so is putting political gain over the interests of New York voters.

Sincerely,

Stand Up America
Common Cause

Adirondacks Indivisible
Bethlehem NY Indivisible
Bronx NYPAN
Brooklyn Resisters
Butternut Valley Indivisible
CCoHOPE Indivisible
Citizen's Response Network of Wayne County
City Island Indivisible
Downtown East for Progress
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
East End Action Network (EEAN)
Empire State Indivisible
Hudson Valley Strong Indivisible
Indivisible Binghamton

Indivisible Brooklyn
Indivisible Cayuga
Indivisible Cortland County
Indivisible Mohawk Valley
Indivisible New Rochelle
Indivisible Rochester
Indivisible Salt City
Indivisible Scarsdale
Indivisible Stephentown
Indivisible Ulster / NY18 & 19
Indivisible YorktownNY
IndivisibleColumbiaNY
IndivisibleWeStand – UWS
Inwood Indivisible
Larchmont/Mamaroneck Indivisible
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Make The Road NY
Mamaroneck Indivisible
Markers For Democracy
Mountain Top Progressives
Northern Westchester Indivisible
Organize for Action WNY
Persist NY
Progressive Schenectady
Public Citizen
Rockaway Women for Progress
Rockland United
Show Up LI
SMART Legislation
Suffolk Progressives
The Holland (Willows) Indivisible Group
The Workers Circle
True Blue New York
Ulster Activists (UAct)
United Auto Workers Region 9A
Vote Early New York
We are One Sullivan – Sullivan County, NY
Westchester Citizen Therapists
Westchester for Change